

Abstract of the Invention

A wireless programmable user interaction system allows a user to interact with networked services relating to physical objects that have associated machine-readable tags. The system includes a portable interaction device in wireless communication with a local computer network. The portable interaction device includes a portable computing device, such as a hand-held computer, and an associated machine-readable tag reader (e.g., a bar code reader). An interaction system catalog in the portable computing device stores tag format information that correlates the tag identity information with an identity information category and related information. The interaction system catalog can indicate the types of information, interactions, or other computer network services that are available and relevant to the physical object. Upon selection of a desired network service by a user, a functional payload is delivered to the portable computing device over the wireless network connection to be executed. The functional payload may originate from the local network with which the wireless communication takes place or from any payload server located anywhere on the public global computer network.